

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CEA-02 STR-08 RSR-01 /123 W
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R 101715 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6793

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT ECON ELAB DA

SUBJ: NATION- WIDE LABOR CONFLICT ENDS

REF: COPENHAGEN 670

SUMMARY: QUARTER MILLION INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES RETURNED TO WORK
APRIL 10, ENDING THREE- WEEK LABOR CONFLICT. BOTH TRADE UNION
FEDERATION AND EMPLOYERS FEDERATION VOTED HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF
ACCEP-
TING NATIONAL MEDIATOR'S PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.
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1. NATIONAL LABOR MEDIATOR'S MARCH 29 PROPOSAL (REFTEL) WAS ACCEPTED APRIL 9 BY THE DANISH EMPLOYERS FEDERATION (DA), 454 TO 105, (OVER 80 PER CENT IN FAVOR). DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTED MEDIATOR'S PROPOSAL BY VOTE OF 69 PER CENT IN FAVOR, 31 PER CENT AGAINST. PARTICIPATION RATE IN LABOR VOTING OF 62 PERCENT OF THOSE ELIGIBLE WAS HIGHEST IN MANY YEARS. ONLY SIX UNIONS, INCLUDING COMMUNIST- CONTROLLED SEAMENS' UNION, RECOMMENDED REJECTION OF THE PROPOSAL. SURPRISINGLY HIGH PERCENTAGE ON BOTH TRADE UNION AND EMPLOYER SIDES FAVORING MEDIATION PROPOSAL IS BEING INTERPRETED AS ENDORSEMENT OF LEADERSHIP IN BOTH FEDERATIONS. WORK RESUMED SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT APRIL 9-10 WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. IN TELEVISED STATEMENT, PRIMIN ANKER JORGENSEN EMPHASIZED FACT THAT STRIKE TERMINATED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTIES, WITHOUT INTERVENTION BY GOVT. HE DECLINED TO ESTIMATE LOSS OF PRODUCTION CAUSED BY STRIKE BUT STATED HE THOUGHT YEAR- END COMPANY REPORTS WOULD INDICATE PRODUCTION AND PROFIT LEVELS CLOSE TO THOSE OF 1972. LO CHAIRMAN THOMAS NIELSEN STATED THAT SETTLEMENT WAS AN EXPENSIVE ONE FOR DANISH INDUSTRY BUT POINTED OUT THAT DURING PREVIOUS TWO- YEAR CONTRACT PERIOD (1971-73) WAGE INCREASES HAD TOTALLED 27 PER CENT, OF WHICH ONLY 6.6 PER CENT WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NEGOTIATED CONTRACT INCREASES. REMAINDER DUE TO COST- OF- LIVING BONUSES AND WAGE DRIFT. IN THIS CONNECTION, EMPLOYERS FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE TOLD LABATT THAT BECAUSE CONTRACT INCREASES UNDER NATIONAL MEDIATOR'S PROPOSAL WOULD BE 7.5 PER CENT OVER TWO- YEAR PERIOD DANISH EMPLOYERS WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MINIMIZE WAGE DRIFT DURING COMING CONTRACT PERIOD. DUNNIGAN

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